

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 DRC-01 L-03 PM-07 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPR-02 /050 W

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P R 121703Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO RUDONBA/CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5913

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO

CINCEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

COMFAIRMED

COMSUBGRU EIGHT

USS GILMORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9691

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IT

SUBJECT: LA MADDALENA STATUS REPORT

REF: ROME 9131

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON DEFENSE MINISTER ANDREOTTI JULY 12 TO STRESS URGENCY OF OPENING LA MADDALENA PX AND COMMISSARY IMMEDIATELY AND NECESSITY OF FINDING PERMANENT SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THIS QUESTION.

2. ANDREOTTI SAID THAT AS FAR AS A TEMPORARY SOLUTION WAS CONCERNED, USN COULD BEGIN SELLING DUTY-FREE ITEMS ON THE NATO INSTALLATION ON SANTO STEFANO IMMEDIATELY. HE NOTED THAT HE FULLY APPRECIATES THE DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN OPERATING OUT OF SANTO STEFANO FOR MORE THAN A FEW MONTHS. HE SAID HE WOULD CALL FONMIN MORE AND SUPPORT AMENDMENT OF THE BILATERAL INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE PORTION OF ITALIAN NAVY LAND TO BE OCCUPIED BY NCO CLUB, THUS PROVIDING LEGAL BASIS FOR STORES'S OPERATION FOR A SUBSEQUENT PERIOD.

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3. IT IS CLEAR THAT CHANCES OF OPENING STORES AT PRESENT
LOCATION ON LA MADDALENA ARE NIL. EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTION
TO DUTY-FREE ITEMS BEING SOLD IMMEDIATELY ON NATO INSTALLATION
ON SANTO STEFANO IF USN SO DESIRES.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT ANDREOTTI'S POSITION IN FAVOR
OF AMENDING GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO
PROVIDE LEGAL BASIS FOR PX AND COMMISSARY OPERATIONS IS A
STEP FORWARD AND REASSURES US TO SOME DEGREE THAT OPERATION
ON SANTO STEFANO WOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS PERMANENT. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMISSARY, DUTY FREE ENTRY, MILITARY BASES, LA MADDALENA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME09691
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740187-0068
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740753/aaaabtit.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ROME 9131
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LA MADDALENA STATUS REPORT
TAGS: MARR, IT
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005